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2711

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Katsumi NIHEI

Appln. No. 09/699,554

Group Art Unit: 2711

261

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Examiner: Not Assigned

**RECEIVED**

Filed: October 31, 2000

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For: ADVERTISEMENT METHOD, ADVERTISEMENT APPARATUS,  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. German Patent Application No. 196 38 515, dated April 2, 1998
2. World Office Application No. 96 04633, dated February 15, 1996
3. European Patent Application No. 0 725 504, dated August 7, 1996

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/699,554

merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a Foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 28, 2001